



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Animal Health and Food Control Department
H-1860 Budapest 55. Pf. 1. ☎: (36)1 332 7986 Fax:(36)1 301 4669
HUNGARY

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Dr. Charisse Cleare
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Veterinary Services
National Center for Import and Export
Unit 38
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737
United States of America

Dear Dr. Cleare,

Referring to the letter of W. Ron DeHaven, Deputy Administrator, on the evaluation of CSF status of Hungary enclosed please find our answers to your complementary questions (information request categorised according to the 11 factors defined in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 92.2).

I hope your country will recognise Hungary as free from CSF soon on the basis of our answers.

Thank you for your kind co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. Tibor Bálint)
Chief Veterinary Officer



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Hungarian answers to the complementary questions regarding to the assessment of Classical swine Fever Status of Hungary

1. *The authority, organization, and infrastructure of the veterinary services organization in the region*

- We attached consolidated the English version Act XCI of 1995 on the Veterinary Issues as amended by Act XXII of 2001 (Annex 1)
- The new CSF Decree (No 75/2002.(VIII.16.) FVM Decree) came into force 1 September of 2002. The English Version of this decree is attached (Annex 2)
- The map of the counties of Hungary is attached (Annex 3)

It is very important that the Hungarian version of the Act and CSF Decree is official; therefore the English versions are informative only.

The number of the veterinarians working in the County Animal Health Stations and they organs is the following as of 31 December 2002:

Working in the Headquarters of Stations:	135
Working in the Central Laboratory of he Stations:	41
Working in the Veterinary Districts:	1065
Working in Food hygienic sub-offices	242
Working in BIPs:	141

According to the new CSF decree the swill feeding have been banned yet. The Animal Health and Food Control Department issued a guideline for the use and disposing the catering waste. It is very important that the use of the catering waste (excluding catering waste from international transport) for feeding of dogs, cats and other non-farmed animals is allowed. Furthermore the establishments (restaurants, industrial kitchens etc.) producing catering waste are under control of the Stations.

2. *Disease status*

In 1993 we had 4 outbreaks with 4 cases in two villages, Mérk and Vállaj, in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county. These neighbouring villages are close to the Rumanian border. All affected holding were small scale (backyard) farms with 38 pigs totally (one farm with 3 pigs, two farms with 4-4 pigs and one farm with 27 pigs). The diagnosis based on clinically investigation, necropsy, histopathological examination of the brains and virus detection (identification of isolates by IF). The source of the infection and the method of spread are not identified exactly. But regarding to the spread of the disease it is very important that the distance among the farms was very small (in case of the

two first farm under 1 km). The estimated day of the infection was 3-5 days before the detection of the date of initial detection of animal health incident. For example in case of the first two outbreaks the estimated date of first infection was 14 May 1993 and the date of initial detection of animal health incident was 19 May 1993.

3. The status of adjacent regions with respect to the agent

There were no comments.

4. Information The extent of an active disease control program.

When a village is quarantined or if CSF is confirmed in wild boars in the "endangered zone" the director of the competent County Animal Health and Food Control Station to send out veterinarians to carry out the census and the clinical survey of each pig farm, including the backyard herds. On the basis of the Act XCI of 1995 on Veterinary Issues (Section 7 (3)) in case of a danger of an epidemic the private veterinarian may be employed by the head of the competent station for these tasks.

In case of CSF suspicion only the Central Veterinary Institute is allowed to carry out tests. In the CVI the following tests are carried out:

- Necropsy
- Histopathology
- Virus detection
 - Organs – Cryostat Section stained with IF conjugate
 - Organs suspension, EDTA-blood – antigen-ELISA
 - Virus isolation in PK-15 cells (identification of isolates by IF and ELISA method)
- Antibody detection
 - ELISA
 - Virus Neutralisation test

In case that first samples from the herd under official surveillance due to CSF suspicion are negative other samples must be taken (organs from other pigs showing clinical signs and blood samples from clinically healthy animals) and send to the CVI. The official surveillance quarantine may be lifted only if the suspicion of CSF can be ruled out in an unquestionable way on the basis of the epidemiological inquiry, clinical and pathological investigation of the pigs as well as the laboratory tests. Therefore there is no maximum quarantine time and the laboratory tests are repeated so frequently as it necessary. It is very important that during the epidemiological inquiry must be identify the holdings where the CSF may have been introduced from the suspected holding or keeping swine that may have been contaminated from the same sources. The district veterinary officer will order official surveillance for all holding identified on the basis of the epidemiological inquiry as contact holdings (see Section 7 of the No 75/2002(VIII.16.) FVM Decree). The contact holdings remain under

surveillance quarantine until the suspicion of classical swine fever is officially ruled out.

On the basis of the No 75/2002.(VIII.16.) FVM Decree in case of a holding where the CSF officially confirmed every pig must be killed without delay under the supervision of the official veterinarian (see Section 5). Therefore to send the clinically healthy pigs to a designated slaughterhouse is not possible any more.

The measure written down in the Annex III of the Contingency Plan that pigs from a holding where CSF has not been confirmed or ruled out in 15 days can be moved for slaughter based on the Council Directive 80/217/EEC, but No 75/2002.(VIII.16.) FVM Decree and Council Directive 89/2001/EC do not contain this rule. Therefore the pigs from such a holding can be moved for slaughter after the suspicion of CSF has been ruled out only.

According to No 75/2002.(VIII.16.) FVM Decree in the protective and surveillance zone pigs may be transported from the holding 30 days or 21 days, respectively, after the preliminary cleaning and disinfection of the infected holding, directly to

- the slaughterhouse designated by the Station for immediate slaughter,
- an animal protein processing plant or other suitable place where the pigs are killed immediately and their carcasses completely disposed of under authority supervision
- another holding inside the protection zone in exceptional cases only.

The clinical investigation the pigs do not cover the serological tests of these animals, but adequate quantity of samples has been taken from the pigs after being slaughtered to confirm or rule out the presence of the classical swine fever virus or the antibodies produced on the holdings concerned. (See Section 12 (1) a) and e) of No 75/2002.(VIII.16.) FVM Decree). The Section 12 (3) and (4) of the CSF Decree contains the rules regarding the treatment of meat of slaughtered pigs.

5. The vaccination status of the region

There were no comments.

6. The degree to which the region is separated from adjacent region of higher risk through physical or other barriers.

There were no comments.

7. The extent to which movement of animals and animal products is controlled from regions of higher risk, and the level of biosecurity regarding such movements

The current number of the BIPS are the following.

There are 24 joint offices of Border Inspection Points in Hungary, it means 36 main offices and sub-checkpoints together. A map on these BIPs is attached (Annex 4). It has to be noted that transportation of live animals, animal products and feed across the border inspection posts is possible only if the official veterinarian has controlled the documents and the shipment.

To prevent the illegal transportation of animals and animal products is the task of the Hungarian Frontier Guard Service and Hungarian Custom Office. Of course in case of request the state veterinary service assists them.

The rules regarding the quarantine (isolation) of animals are the following.

Animals deriving from other farms (import and domestic origin) shall be isolated from the purpose of surveillance. The quarantine facilities are private owned and these quarantines may be located anywhere in the country. It is compulsory for the animal keeper to make all necessary arrangements for the appropriate conditions of isolation, if he/she wants to sell animals from other farms. On the basis of the request of the animal keeper the quarantine shall be - on the basis of the official veterinarian's proposal - authorised by the district veterinary officer. The official veterinarian must be present when the animals are unloaded at the place of quarantine and the animals are monitored by the official veterinarian during the quarantine period.

The licensing of import of live animals, animal products and feed is based on individual judgement in Hungary. It means if somebody wants to import live animals, animal products or feed to Hungary, forwarding an application to the Animal Health and Food Control Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development is obligatory. The conditions of quarantine of animals intended to be imported shall be monitored beforehand by the station competent by the place of destination of animals. When somebody forwards an application to the Animal Health and Food Control Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development it compulsory to attach the certificate of the competent station about the fulfilment of the conditions of quarantine.

Examinations for the detection of diseases possibly appearing on imported animals - depending on the species of animals and the veterinary conditions of the country of origin - are determined by the Ministry when delivering the import licence. During under surveillance, the examination of imported animals shall be undertaken by the station in co-ordination with the Central Veterinary Institute. The imported live pigs are quarantined at least 40 days, in general these animals are tested for the disease mentioned in our original answer, but depending on the veterinary conditions of the country of origin investigations for other diseases would be carry out as well. In general the pigs are tested between 21st and 28th days of the quarantine period. It is not possible that an animal is not tested, because the quarantine is lifted only if all investigations of each animal have been done with satisfactory results. In an animal

shows signs of an compulsorily notifiable disease the official veterinarian, the district veterinary officer, and the competent county (capital) veterinary and the food-control station is obliged to act according to the specific rules for the suspicion of the disease prescribed by the Zoosanitary Code or the relevant ministerial Decree.

Of course we have biosecurity measures that separate small- and large-scale farms and prevent disease transmission between them. In Hungary the establishment of the farms is possible with the licence of the Board of Housing. On the basis of the Act XCI of 1995 on Veterinary Rules (Section 34) and the Zoosanitary Code the Board of Housing gives this licence only if the competent station as a professional authority gives its professional assent according to the epidemiological requirements of Appendix 2 of the Zoosanitary Code (please see Annex 5). In case of large-scale farms* and small-scale breeding farms shall be colonised with the prior consent of the station competent by the place of the farm. The animals shall be free from the agents of animal diseases under national prevention and - if the circumstances warrant - shall be medically treated against parasitoses. Furthermore the Zoosanitary Code covers general rules of prevention of animal diseases, including pig diseases (Please see Annex 6).

* In case of pigs the large-scale farm = farm has places for 100 or more pigs

8. Livestock demographics and marketing practices in the region

Two tables on the imported and exported live pigs and pork in 2001 and 2002 are attached (Annex 7 and 8). These tables have been compiled on the basis of the data from the The Transportation Subsystem of the Veterinary Information System. On the basis of the Zoosanitary Code animal waste of high risk material shall not be transported into the country as goods or raw material. Low risk materials are imported as basic material of petfood only.

In general the identification of pigs is compulsory when these pigs transported only, but in case of an individual serological survey (for example serological control of Aujeszky's disease) the veterinary authority also order the identification of the tested pigs. It is very important that the development of a computer based registration and identification system for pigs is in progress.

A table on the geographic distribution of pigs according to the data from the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (as of 1 August 2002) is attached (Annex 9.).

In Hungary there are 11 so called public artificial insemination stations which are produce and placing pig semen on the Hungarian market. These artificial insemination stations licensed by the Hungarian Breeding Authority on the basis of the professional assent of the competent county Animal Health and Food Control Station. The method of licensing (including the test protocol) and the animal health status of the animals kept by the artificial insemination stations are the same as in the European Union. One of the 11 so called public artificial insemination stations has the official accreditation of the European Union and the EU accreditation other 4 stations is in progress. These

public artificial insemination stations used so called fresh semen technologies. According to our information currently none of these artificial insemination stations are interested in exporting pig semen to the United States and we have no information such request from the United States. But if there were such request from the United States these artificial insemination stations would be fulfil the requirements of the export.

9. The type and extent of the disease surveillance in the region

Since 2001 the blood samples taken in the frame of the National Eradication Programme for Aujeszky's disease have been also used during the CSF monitoring programme. In case of the small-scale farms all blood samples taken during the Aujeszky's disease programme are also tested for CSF, in case of large-scale farms 10% of the samples intended for laboratory investigation for Aujeszky's disease are tested for CSF. The number of samples tested for CSF from the small-scale farms is about 50 percent of the total samples or little bit higher.

The CSF monitoring programme covers all counties in Hungary, including the ones which have common borders with other countries.

As it was mentioned in our earlier answer since June of 1997 individual virological investigations (direct immunofluorescence test) are conducted each year on all shot wild boars for export. This programme covers all counties of Hungary, and in each county the number of tested wild boars is commensurate with the estimated number of the wild boars in the county. Please see the table on the virological tests of wild boar for CSF in 2002 (Annex 10).

10. Diagnostic laboratory capabilities

Serum samples are tested routinely by ELISA method. It is well known, that the specificity of commercially available ELISA can not reach 100 percent. Therefore a low number of false positive reaction can be detected. Sample giving positive reaction in ELISA test are further tested by virus-neutralisation test. If a sample gave positive reaction in VN test it would be simultaneously tested in VN test with CSF, BVD and BD virus strains.

That part of Annex III of the contingency plan mentioned in your letters refers only to marker vaccine strain and the test suitable to distinguish between wild CSF strain and the marker vaccine strain. This is only theoretical possibility, because in Hungary the vaccination against CSF is banned. It is also very important that in an emergency situation we would use the vaccination only if we could not eradicate the disease by the stamping out policy.

CSF diagnostic training for veterinarians:

Every second year special college are organized for actual problems of pestivirus infection in pigs. The program includes the CSF laboratorial diagnosis. Lectures and practices are held by international and home CSF experts.

Technicians:

New technicians are trained by practised veterinarians and technicians. Skill in CSF diagnostic work are controlled every six month by testing coded known CSF positive and negative samples. This exercise includes all methods (virus isolation, virus antigen detection by ELISA and IF test, neutralisation test) used routinely for CSF diagnosis.

Furthermore as I was mentioned in our earlier answer the Central Veterinary Institute (National CSF Reference Laboratory) participates on the interlaboratory comparison test for CSF, BVD and BD organises by EU CSF Reference Laboratory (Hannover, Germany). The results of these proficiency tests are satisfactory.

11. Policies and infrastructure for animal disease control in the region, i.e. emergency response.

The predicted time to detect the suspect of CSF infection from the date of the first infection is 3-7 days pending the virulence of the CSF strain. For suspect cases or during an outbreak the maximum length of time from when a sample is collected to when it is delivered to the laboratory is 6 hours. The length of time from the sample arrived to the laboratory to the finishing the virological investigations is 24 hours.

We can stop the export immediately if the disease officially confirmed, because the CVO can issue an internal instruction to the stations and the BIPs that it is not allowed to sign export veterinary certificates in which must certify the freedom of the country from CSF, and the shipments accompanied with such veterinary certificate signed earlier or shipments to be on the move and originated from the area of the country affected with the disease are not allowed to cross the border.

The Section 8 (1) Act XCI of 1995 on Veterinary Issues the owner of the animal died or killed because of one of the compulsorily notifiable animal diseases, or the owner of the materials, instruments and objects destroyed is entitled to compensation from the state (Central Budget). For this purpose there is a special fund determined by the Act on budget for the given year. The amount of this fund was 1487 million Forints (about 6593358 \$) for 2002. It is very important that in case of necessity more money is available without the special decision of the Parliament.

As it was mentioned earlier in an emergency situation we would use the vaccination only if we could not eradicate the disease by the stamping out policy. Therefore these questions are only theoretical. The Decree No. 75/2002. (VIII.16.) FVM of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development contains the rules for emergency

vaccination (Section 21-24), please see these Sections, especially Section 23. Prior to starting the vaccination, the stock shall be examined clinically and only in case of suspicion of CSF must be sent samples for laboratory investigations. All vaccinated pigs, regardless of their age, shall be marked with individual, numbered ear tags. In case emergency vaccination all vaccinated pigs would be slaughtered as soon as possible on the basis of Section 23 (4) b) of the Decree No. 75/2002, therefore your question regarding to the offspring of the seropositive sows is irrelevant. The list of the serial number of the ear tags of the vaccinated pigs would be maintained till all vaccinated pigs have been slaughtered.

There are no evaluations of Hungary's CSF status conducted by the EU, live pigs and products of pigs may be imported to the EU with the guarantees laid down Commission Decision 2002/199/EC.